

MEMO

DATE: May 6, 2004
TO: Regional Council
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SUBJECT: Presentation of Results from the Data Needs Survey

Information Only: Staff will present the results of the Data Needs Survey.

Background:

One of SCAG's important functions is to provide data and facilitate information sharing within and external to the region. Currently SCAG handles an estimated 8,500 data requests annually related primarily to census, transportation, socioeconomic (e.g. households and employment), GIS and SCAG reports. Between 2000 and 2010, SCAG estimates that it would spend a total of \$8.4 million in data acquisition based on the current methods of acquiring data. A survey could provide a better understanding of the data needs of stakeholders, particularly member jurisdictions. The results of the survey will assist SCAG staff in prioritizing data acquisition and providing guidance for data sharing.

In early March this year, staff developed an electronic data needs survey process via SCAG's web site, including a survey form. The survey form contained questions on topics of interest as well as data types and formats. Staff also sent e-mails regarding the survey to major stakeholders including cities, counties, subregions, transportation commissions, special districts, state agencies, colleges/universities, school districts, consultants, and other interested groups. The survey form was also made available to the general public via SCAG's web site.

Summary of Survey Results:

A total of 127 surveys were submitted with approximately 2,000 different data sets selected as of April 10, 2004. Highlights of the survey results include the following:

1. The majority of the respondents (68%) were from local governments, including cities, counties, special districts, and subregions;
2. At the city level, data sets with the most needs are related to Transportation (30%), 2000 Census (17%), and General Data (e.g. socioeconomic and travel demand forecast) (16%);
3. Priority in data sets is generally consistent across different types of organizations; and
4. Some of the major comments included needs for parcel level data as well as more frequent update on land use and aerial imagery data.